

# Situation Overview: Upper Nile State, South Sudan

June 2017

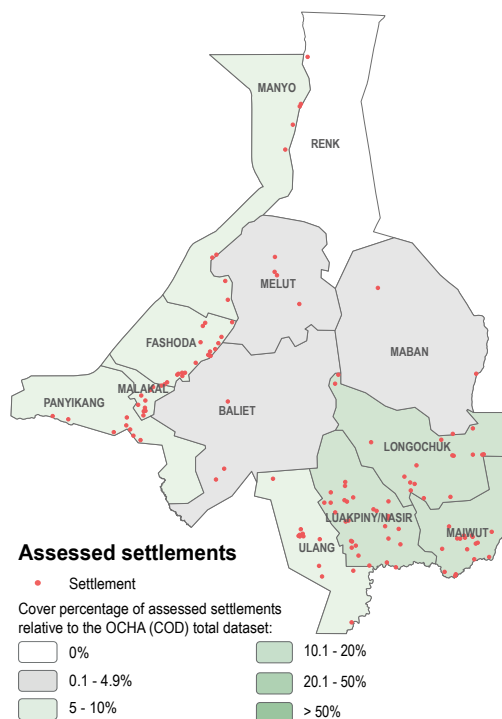
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## Introduction

Despite a potential respite in fighting in lower counties along the western bank, dispersed fighting and widespread displacements trends continued into June and impeded the provision of primary needs and access to basic services for assessed settlements. Only 45% of assessed settlements reported adequate access to food and half reported access to healthcare facilities across Upper Nile State, while the malnutrition, malaria and cholera concerns reported in May continued into June.

To inform the response of humanitarian actors working outside of formal settlement sites, REACH has been conducting an ongoing assessment of hard-to-reach areas in South Sudan since 2015, for which data on settlements across Greater Upper Nile, Greater Equatoria and Western Bahr el Ghazal region is collected on a monthly basis.

Between 8-26 June 2017, REACH interviewed 223 Key Informants (KIs) from 119 settlements in 11 counties in Upper Nile State. All KIs interviewed had arrived in their displacement location in the last month (May or June). Seventy-seven percent of KIs reported to be in contact with someone living in the Area of Knowledge (AoK) within the last month and 23% reported to have visited the AoK within the last month. Therefore all KIs had up-



**Map 1: REACH assessment coverage of Upper Nile State, June 2017**

to-date information about the village from which they had been displaced, in order to ensure an accurate understanding of current displacement and population dynamics. Other respondents had recent information about the village through contact with someone (usually a relative) that is currently living there. Findings have been triangulated using four Focus Group Discussions (FGDs), secondary data, and

previous REACH assessments of hard-to-reach areas of Upper Nile State.

This Situation Overview outlines displacement and access to basic services in Upper Nile in June 2017. The first section analyses displacement trends in Upper Nile State. The second section outlines the population dynamics in the assessed settlements, as well as access to food and basic services for both IDP and non-displaced communities.

Baliet, Maban, Melut and Renk Counties had less than 5% settlement coverage (Map 1), therefore they were not analysed at county level. However, data from the settlements within these counties were included in the state-level analysis. June coverage did not increase from May, which means that conclusions delivered in this Situation Overview cover the western and south eastern parts of the state. REACH's worked to continue settlement coverage in areas where fighting was more intense and displacement was ongoing in order to facilitate the provision of information from areas known to have access difficulties and information gaps.


## Population Movement and Displacement

There were an estimated 250,406 IDPs residing in Upper Nile State in June and the percentage of assessed settlements reporting an IDP

presence returned to the averages from April (22% June, 42% May, 28% April).<sup>1</sup> This may be indicative of the slowing of movement due to the rainy season. Although fighting that took place in Panyikang and Fashoda appeared to subside, clashes between armed groups armed groups reportedly commenced in Manyo and Renk Counties, causing the local population to flee across the border as well as to Renk Town.<sup>2</sup> These clashes may have also contributed to a lack of IDPs, with no assessed settlement in Manyo reporting an IDP presence in June, compared to 50% in May.

There were reportedly skirmishes in Nasir County throughout the month as well. Security incidents against humanitarians were reported to have taken place in Fashoda, Malakal and Ulang counties and unrest continued to occur in Maban PoC.<sup>3</sup> Reported displacement into Sudan from across South Sudan has decreased to an estimated 230 per day, from

1. OCHA. South Sudan Humanitarian Snapshot June 2017.
2. OCHA. Humanitarian Bulletin South Sudan Issue 10 | 28 June 2017.
3. OCHA. South Sudan: Humanitarian Access Snapshot June 2017.
4. All Africa. Sudan: Time to Repeal U.S. Sanctions on Sudan? 22 June 2017.
5. An estimated 43,506 refugees crossed into Sudan during May, compared to 3,447 in June.
6. OCHA. Sudan. Humanitarian Bulletin Sudan Issue 15, 19 June – 2 July 2017.

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## METHODOLOGY

To provide an overview of the situation in largely inaccessible areas of Upper Nile State, REACH uses primary data provided by key informants who have recently arrived, or receive regular information, from their pre-displacement location or “Area of Knowledge”.

Information for this report was collected from key informants in Renk County, Upper Nile, Akobo in Jonglei State, and Juba Protection of Civilians (PoC) site throughout June 2017.

The first phase of the assessment methodology comprised a participatory mapping exercise to map the relevant settlements in Upper Nile State. In-depth interviews were then conducted with selected participants using a standardised survey tool comprising questions on displacement trends, population needs, and access to basic services.

After data collection was completed, all data was examined at the settlement level, and settlements were assigned the modal response. When no consensus could be found for a settlement, that settlement was not included in reporting. Descriptive statistics and geospatial analysis were then used to analyse the data.

Please note that REACH is in the process of establishing sustained data collection in Upper Nile State. As a result, the current coverage is limited. The conclusions drawn are therefore indicative of likely trends in the state.

the May estimated peak of 1,500 per day.<sup>5</sup> Authorities in El Salam, in Sudan’s White Nile State, approved extensions to five refugee camp sites for roughly 55,000 more people to help ease congestion at Al Waral and Um Sangour camps.<sup>6</sup>

In Upper Nile State insecurity remained the primary push factor in June, reported by 64% of KIs. Along the western bank the proportion of KIs reporting insecurity as a push factor remained above the state level: Malakal (100%), Panyikang (93%) and Fashoda (88%), and Manyo (71%). Insecurity was also a push factor for 75% of KIs in Ulang County, which may be indicative of the reported incidents that took place in June.

As the lean season continued and prolonged insecurity led to unsafe farming environments as well as the destruction of crops, a lack of adequate access to food remained the second most reported push factor in June, reported by 58% of KIs. Inadequate access to food was more commonly reported by KIs that came from along the western bank: Fashoda (73%) and Malakal (71%). Continued conflict, combined with a shortage of physical and social infrastructure, led to a lack of access to healthcare facilities being the third most common push factor, reported by 55% of KIs. This push factor was more commonly reported by KIs from Ulang, Maiwut, Longochuk and Luakpiny/Nasir (74%).

### Displacement along the western bank<sup>7</sup>

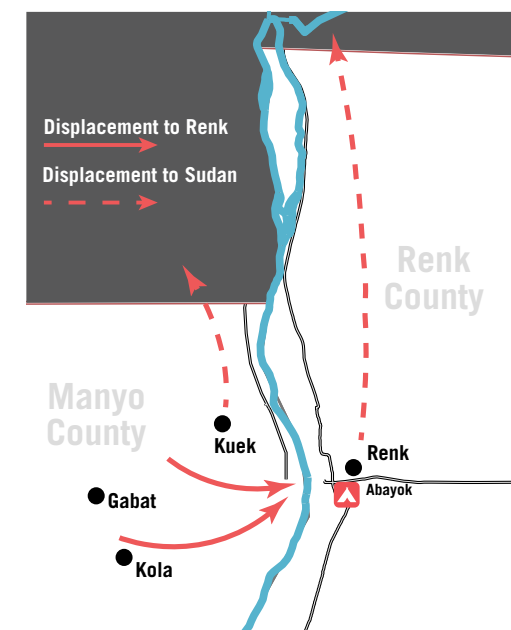
#### Displacement from Manyo

In the second week of June clashes were reported in Manyo County (Kuek, Kola and Gabat), around Wadekona and across the Nile River in Jelhak, Renk County.<sup>8</sup> This led to an unknown number of residents fleeing into the bushes, to Renk Town, Renk, and across the border into Sudan. Women and children were also evacuated to Renk Town, where local staff advised that people had settled in the Abayok, an informal IDP settlement. This is in addition to an estimated 3,400 people who crossed the border into Sudan.<sup>9</sup> The clashes also led to an increased presence of armed groups moving towards and within the area. Although the situation was reportedly resolved, the potential resurgence in sporadic clashes between armed groups throughout the rainy season remains.

#### To and from Malakal

Sporadic security incidents in and around Malakal town may have encouraged more IDPs to enter Malakal PoC. This, combined with the decrease in movement out of the Malakal PoC site reported in May may have led to the reported number of new arrivals in Malakal PoC rising above those departing, meaning that the site population rose to 30,551. This had led to extra pressure placed on the already limited space available.<sup>10</sup> At the time of writing no official data was available to detail where new arrivals had come from.

Despite insecurity, movement in and out of Malakal may have become more viable as river transport commenced again. After being closed due to fighting in 2013, routes between Kodok, Malakal and Renk commenced again in June.<sup>11</sup>



Map 2: Displacement from Manyo, June 2017

#### Displacement within Fashoda

The stabilising security situation, coupled with reduced services in displacement sites,<sup>12</sup> appears to have led to a return of IDPs in Fashoda. As of the start of June, an estimated 10,298 people remained in the informal Aburoc displacement site, a significant decrease from the estimated 40,000 people who were reportedly there at the beginning of May.<sup>13</sup> The most commonly cited reasons for leaving the Aburoc camp were insecurity, as well as family reunion which moved people towards Kor Woral Refugee Camp and other areas in Sudan.<sup>14</sup> Some IDPs also reportedly returned to their home settlements, as 5,000 people were said to have returned to Okurua, Fashoda.<sup>15</sup>

7. The western bank refers to Panyikang, Fashoda, Malakal, and Manyo counties.

8. Radio Tamazuj. South Sudan renews accusations over Khartoum’s support to rebels 15 June 2017.

9. OCHA. Humanitarian Bulletin South Sudan Issue 10. 28 June 2017.

10. CCCM Cluster Bi-weekly Situation Report South Sudan. 16 - 30 June 2017.

11. Eye Radio. River transport routes between Kodok & Malakal re-opened. 10 July 2017.

12. Amnesty International. It was as if my village was swept away by a flood. June 2017.

13. CCCM Cluster Bi-weekly Situation Report South Sudan. 1 - 15 June 2017.

14. DTM. Aburoc, Fashoda County. Population Head Count Summary. June 2017.

15. Radio Tamazuj. Over 5,000 displaced people return to Fashoda’s Okurua County 17 June 2017.

## Displacement from Panyikang

Following fighting that took place in Panyikang in April and May, FGDs with newly IDPs reported that some villages were abandoned leaving only armed groups behind. Those who fled but remained within South Sudan reportedly moved towards Iri and Aburoc, to Dethoma in Melut, and as reported in the Jonglei State June Situation Overview, to Fangak.<sup>16</sup>

## Displacement in south eastern counties<sup>17</sup>

Towards the end of June there were reported clashes in Nasir County, around Ketbek and Pagak in Maiwut County. These clashes were further compounded by fighting that took

place at the start of July in Mathiang, which led thousands of civilians to flee, both within in Longochuk, to Malual, Udier, Chotbora, and in Maiwut, to Pagak, Jekow and Joko.<sup>18</sup> Civilians also fled into Ethiopia, with a reported 5,000 crossing over in the second week of July. Humanitarian organisations relocated an estimated 25 staff from Pagak and there were reports of compounds being looted.<sup>19</sup> This rise in clashes ended the period of relative security eastern counties had experienced since the last outbreak at the start of the year.<sup>20</sup>

The Upper Nile State continues to be impacted by insecurity, which has prolonged displacement within the state and to neighbouring Jonglei, as well as over the border into Sudan. While some areas, such as Panyikang and Fashoda appear to have seen decrease in displacement, the rising insecurity in other areas including Manyo, Nasir and Maiwut may have led to an increase in displacement. Inadequate access to food and health care facilities have also driven displacement. These factors indicate that a multi-sectoral approach is still required to improve the situation in assessed settlements, to help those who remain as well as support the return of IDPs when possible.

## Situation in Assessed Settlements

### Food security

The combined influence of ongoing insecurity and the continuing lean season in June, as in May, led to less than half of assessed settlements having adequate

access to food. In Upper Nile State, 46% of assessed settlements reported having adequate access to food with 38% reporting cultivation as their primary source of food. Similar to May, for assessed settlements reporting inadequate access to food, insecurity played a negative role by blocking access to land for cultivation (74%) and crop destruction due to fighting (64%) (Figure 1).

Low reported adequate access to food is also reflective of the updated June release for the Integrated Food Security Classification Phase (IPC) which estimated that 180,000 people in Upper Nile currently face a food security emergency, one food security phase short of famine.<sup>21</sup> The IPC reports that these people are mostly concentrated in the western bank of Upper Nile (Manyo, Panyikang, Fashoda) where armed conflict is reportedly disrupting access to market and livelihood activities. As the lean season progresses, counties identified as having insufficient access to food should be closely monitored to ensure appropriate action can be taken within a suitable time frame if conditions continue to worsen.

### Access to food along the western bank

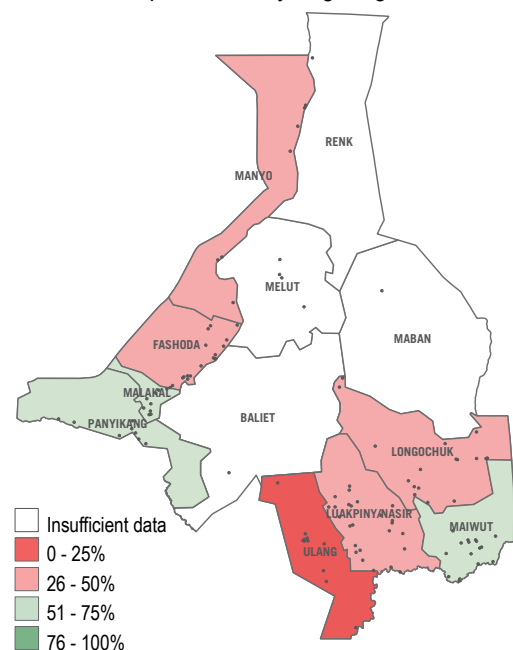
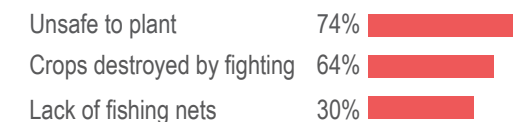
The insecurity that spread along the western bank throughout the past few months has resulted in a decrease in the proportion of assessed settlements reporting adequate access to food, particularly in Fashoda and Manyo. **Only 35% of assessed settlements in Fashoda reported adequate access to food (75% in May) as did 43% in Manyo (67%**

**in May).** Insecurity was reported as the main reason for inadequate access to food by all assessed settlements in Fashoda, by 92% in Malakal and by 67% in Manyo. This decrease in the proportion of assessed settlements in Manyo County reporting access could be attributed to clashes and displacement that took place in June, as could low access in Fashoda where 100% of assessed settlements reported that crops were destroyed by fighting. The food security situation in these counties should be closely monitored for the duration of the lean season, to ensure adequate access to food does not decrease further.

Data collection in Renk had less than 5% coverage so it was not analysed at county level, however the June 2017 SMART survey conducted by Medair in Renk reported severe malnutrition across the county: Camps Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) 27.1% weight-for-height Z-scores (WHZ), Camps Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) 7.2% (WHZ), Host GAM 32.2% (WHZ), Host SAM 7.8% (WHZ).<sup>22</sup> Additional research is required to get a better understanding of the current situation and ensure appropriate action can be taken if conditions continue to worsen.

In June, adequate access to food reportedly improved in Panyikang, despite reported crop

**Figure 1: Top three reported reasons for inadequate access to food, June 2017**



**Map 3: Proportion of settlements reporting adequate access to food, June 2017**

16. For more information see REACH: SSD. Jonglei State Situation Overviews, June, 2017.

17. South eastern counties refers to Longochuk, Luakpiny/Nasir, Maiwut and Ulang.

18. OCHA. Humanitarian Bulletin South Sudan Issue 11. 15 July 2017.

19. OCHA. South Sudan Flash Update on Upper Nile. 7 July 2017.

20. For more information see REACH: SSD. Upper Nile Situation Overview, March 2017.

DTM South Sudan: Upper Nile State Movement Trend Tracking Report, 30 April – 6 May 2017

21. IPC. South Sudan: Food insecurity situation still dire and widespread - IPC Alert, Issue 8, 21 June 2017.

22. MEDAIR: Renk County June 2017 SMART Survey



destruction and the fighting that took place in April and May of 2017.<sup>23</sup> The proportion of assessed settlements that cited adequate access to food in May was only 17%, in June this reached 50%. This may be partly due to the decrease in conflict allowing cultivation to take place, as 37% of assessed settlements reported cultivation as a source of food, up from 13% in April. An additional sign of a decrease in fighting was an apparent increase in the proportion of assessed settlements reporting market access (13% in May to 53% in June), allowing food to enter Panyikang from Sudan.

Further research could be done to ascertain whether this increase in adequate access to food is sustainable if IDPs begin to return to their home settlements.

#### Access to food in south eastern counties

Low levels of access to food reported in south eastern counties was also concerning in June. **The proportion of assessed settlements in Ulang citing adequate access to food was the lowest in Upper Nile State, dropping to 20% in June from 43% in May, and in Luakpiny/Nasir 36% reported access (63% in May).** Insecurity again played a central role in limiting access to food, as all assessed settlements in Ulang and 47% in Luakpiny/Nasir that cited having inadequate access to food reported it was unsafe to plant. Additionally, 68% of assessed settlements in Ulang reported fighting that destroyed crops, likely during conflicts that occurred earlier in the year in the south eastern counties.<sup>24</sup> Additional support may be required if Ulang and Luakpiny/Nasir continue to have

insufficient access to food, in particular as insecurity may have made it unsafe to cultivate crops.

In contrast, the proportion of assessed settlements in Maiwut reporting adequate access to food improved. **June saw 54% of assessed settlements citing adequate access to food, compared to 14% in May.** This may be due to an improvement in weather conditions, as 20% of assessed settlements cited natural disasters as the main reason for inadequate access to food, in contrast to 83% in May. This rise in the proportion of assessed settlements reporting adequate access to food in Maiwut may be short term. The residual impact of flooding in previous months destroying crops<sup>24</sup> was also reflected by 20% of assessed settlements reporting a shorter growing season. Additionally, insecurity remained an issue, as 40% of assessed settlements reported that insecurity preventing them from cultivating which lead inadequate access to food. A lack of access due to insecurity may be further impacted by fighting that began in July and the subsequent reported prevention of humanitarian assistance.<sup>25</sup>

#### Coping strategies

As less than half of all assessed settlements in Upper Nile State had adequate access to food due to the combination of fighting, displacement, natural disasters and the lean season, a variety of coping strategies were employed (Figure 2). Similar to May, reducing the number of meals eaten per day remained a common coping strategy as 60% of all

assessed settlements reported that families typically consume two meals a day and 30% reported that families consume only one meal a day. While not ideal, but a sign of potential improvements in Panyikang, 56% of assessed settlements reported consuming one meal per day (78% in May) and 33% reported eating two (11% in May).

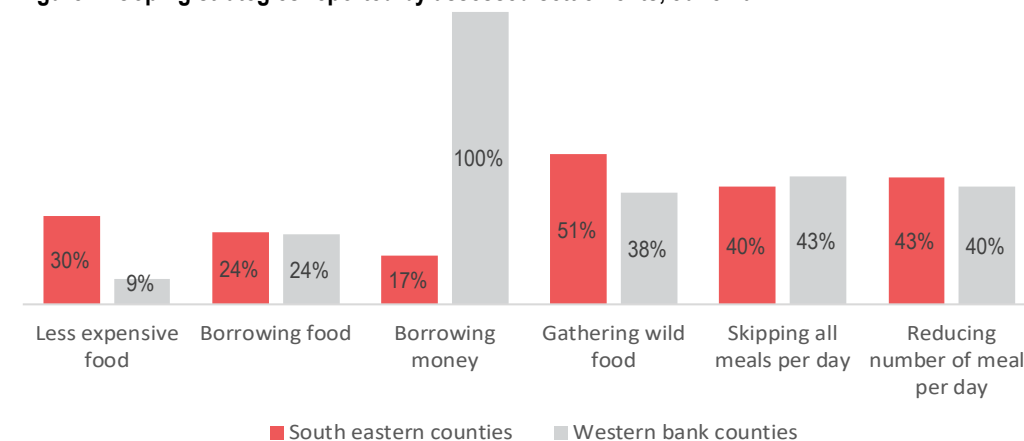
Conversely, reflective of the conflict that occurred in Manyo County in June, 50% of assessed settlements reported consuming less than one meal per day, from none in May, as did 29% of assessed settlements in Fashoda (8% in May). This increase in the proportion of assessed settlements reportedly consuming less than one meal per day is a worrying sign of continuing food shortages and should be monitored as the South Sudan heads towards the peak of the lean season in July.

#### Livelihoods

Potentially indicative of the decrease in conflict

in some areas of Upper Nile, the proportion of assessed settlements reporting access to land for cultivation increased following the instability in March and April.<sup>26</sup> In June 66% of assessed settlements reported that everyone had physical access to land for cultivation, compared to 51% in May. In counties along the western bank access doubled, reaching 62% of assessed settlements in June from 31% in May. As reported earlier, insecurity was the main reason assessed settlements were had inadequate access to food (Figure 1). This was seen in Malakal where the continuing presence of armed groups may have contributed to only 38% of assessed settlements reporting access to land for cultivation and in Luakpiny/Nasir where reported clashes and insecurity may have influenced the decrease in the proportion of assessed settlements reporting access to land for cultivation (81% in May to 58% in June). This decrease in Luakpiny/Nasir is another sign of potential instability and highlights the need

Figure 2: Coping strategies reported by assessed settlements, June 2017



23. For more information see REACH: SSD. Upper Nile Situation Overviews, April, May 2017.

24. For more information see REACH: SSD. Upper Nile Situation Overview, February 2017.

25. OCHA. South Sudan. Flash Update on Upper Nile. 7 July 2017.

26. For further information on previous conflicts and displacement, please refer to REACH: Situation Overviews Upper Nile State, March and April 2017.

to increase awareness of the food security situation in this county.

While there is an increase in access to land for cultivation in Upper Nile State, minimal access to seeds and tools limits the ability to cultivate. Of all assessed settlements reporting access to land for cultivation, only 35% reported having access to agricultural inputs. Indicative of the impact that previous conflicts have had on the western bank, 44% of assessed settlements reported that the agricultural inputs had been stolen or looted. Fashoda was the only county with assessed settlements reporting agricultural inputs remained with the owners (7%), compared to none in Malakal, Manyo and Panyikang. Given that this is cultivation season, which should provide crops in the longer term, potential gaps in normal levels of cultivation signal consumption gaps in the future.

In June, there was also a decreased reported market access, suggesting that populations were unable to rely on markets to access food this lean season. The proportion of assessed settlements reporting physical access to a market decreased to 34% (Figure 3), compared to 54% in May. Assessed settlements in south eastern counties that faced insecurity concerns had even lower physical access to markets; no assessed settlements in Ulang (29% in May) and only 12% in Luakpiny/Nasir (47% in May). In addition, although some counties may have better access to markets, the national consumer price index increased despite the inflation rate only undergoing minor changes in June.<sup>27</sup> Weak purchasing power may be another reason as to

why a decrease in market access in assessed counties across the Upper Nile State occurred, as it was matched by the decreasing proportion of assessed settlements who reported buying food as their primary source of food (from 21% in April to 8% in June).

Therefore, as food shortages are expected to continue throughout the lean season,<sup>28</sup> livelihood patterns should be monitored so that if cultivation decreases again, and market prices continue to increase as market access decreases, suitable support can be provided.

Protection

Insecurity continued to be a major concern in Upper Nile State, with 27% of assessed settlements reporting that residents never felt safe. **Similar to May, across Upper Nile State 24% of assessed settlements reported that males never felt safe and 23% reported that females never felt safe.** This was despite 92% of assessed settlements in Upper Nile reporting that local authorities provided some physical protection. The main protection concerns did not differ from May and remained directly attributable to continued conflict and insecurity in the state: killing/injury inflicted by members

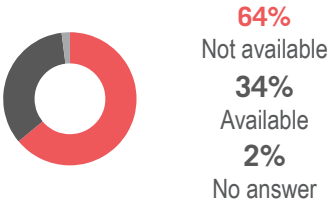


Figure 3: Reported availability of a functioning market accessible from the assessed settlements, June 2017

of a different community, sexual violence and abduction. Of all assessed counties with the presence of IDPs, only assessed settlements in Fashoda (75%) and Malakal (50%) reported that the relations between IDPs and the local community were poor. This could be attributed to the increased presence of IDPs within assessed settlements in these counties.

Along the western bank

While protection concerns remained along the western bank following months of insecurity, the management of these concerns changed in some area of Upper Nile State. June saw an upward shift in the proportion of assessed settlements relying on local authorities for protection. Of the 62% of assessed settlements who reported access to physical protection, 64% reported local authorities were the primary source (44% in May). This increase was expected, following the departure of UNMISS from Aburoc.

Panyikang saw a significant decrease in levels of assessed settlements who reported that males and females always felt unsafe.

The proportion of assessed settlements that reported males and females felt a permanent sense of insecurity decreased from 89% for males and 78% respectively in May to 44% for both genders in June. This was likely due to Panyikang experiencing lower levels of fighting during June. No assessed settlements along the western bank reported that women and children always felt safe, and only 3% reported that men always felt safe (Figure 4). This shows that despite the decrease in reported conflicts,

fears of insecurity remained highly prevalent along the western bank.

The most commonly reported fear for females in assessed settlements was killing/injury inflicted by members of a different community (41%), followed by sexual violence (30%). For both these fears, all assessed settlements stated that the most likely perpetrators of these forms of violence against women would belong to armed groups (Figure 5).

Protection concerns that dealt with violence against males echoed the prolonged impact of the ongoing conflict. While assessed settlements reported that males felt unsafe in their settlement in similar proportions to women, drivers of insecurity were different. Similar to May, the fear of being injured or killed by someone from another community was recorded in assessed settlements as the main safety concern for males (61%), while forced recruitment was the second most commonly reported fear (17%). For both these fears, 85% of assessed settlements reported the most likely

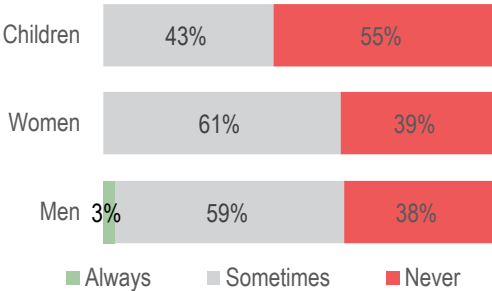
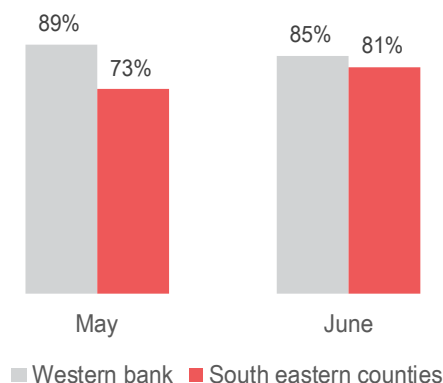


Figure 4: Percentage of assessed settlements in the western bank reporting feeling safe by gender and age, June, 2017<sup>29</sup>

27. WFP. South Sudan Monthly Market Price Monitoring. June 2017.  
28. IPC. South Sudan: Food insecurity situation still dire and widespread - IPC Alert, Issue 8, 21 June 2017.  
29. A portion of assessed settlements chose not to answer or were not sure: 2% for children.



**Figure 5: Proportion of assessed settlements reporting armed groups as the perpetrators of violence against men, women and children in May and June, 2017**

perpetrators would belong to armed groups.

Reflective of the high presence of armed groups in assessed settlements and as shown in Figure 5, assessed settlements overwhelmingly reported the belief that assailants belonged to armed groups. This may have contributed to the proportion of assessed settlements reportedly fearing children would be injured or killed by someone from another community (33% in June, 19% in May) surpassed reporting family separation and abduction (21%), which may ultimately have led to unaccompanied children.

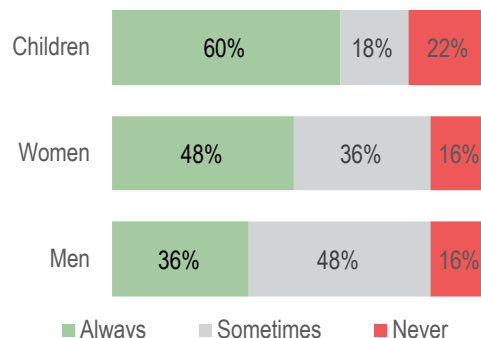
### South eastern counties

**Protection concerns increased in the southern eastern counties of Upper Nile State in June**, despite the proportion of assessed settlements reporting protection was available remaining similar to May (85%). Protection was primarily provided in assessed

settlements by local authority actors and local community actors (96%).

Reflective of the relative stability that was present in the south eastern counties, compared to the western bank, a higher proportion of assessed settlements reported that men, women and children always felt safe (see Figure 6).

The protection concerns perceived to be relevant for females were connected to insecurity, however also to family life. The most commonly reported fear for females in assessed settlements was sexual violence (23%), followed closely by domestic violence (21%). Members of armed groups were cited by assessed settlements as the most likely perpetrators of these forms of violence against women (see Figure 6). However, differing from the western bank, 27% of assessed settlements cited civilians from both their community or another as the suspected perpetrators. Also notable was the increase in the assessed settlements that perceived women were never safe: none in May to 16% in June.



**Figure 6: Percentage of assessed settlements in the south eastern corner reporting feeling safe by gender and age, June 2017**

Potentially reflective of the decrease in food availability, 27% of assessed settlements reported cattle raiding was a protection concern for men. Additionally, 27% of assessed settlements reported killing/injury from someone from another community as a protection concern. As a potential result of relative stability in the area, the proportion of assessed settlements that reported forced recruitment as a safety concern for males decreased (34% in May to 20% in June). As shown in Figure 5, assessed settlements still reported they feared members of armed groups would be the perpetrators. This presence of armed groups in this part of the state will likely increase, following fighting that took place early July.<sup>30</sup>

### Shelter

**In June shelter destruction continued to be present in Upper Nile State as the rainy season progressed.** Potentially reflective of the intense fighting of the previous months along the west bank, 73% of assessed settlements reported destruction or partial destruction of shelters in their area in June, similar to May. Additionally, 44% of assessed settlements reported that almost no shelters had been rebuilt in their area. **An especially high proportion of assessed settlements reported levels of shelter destruction in the conflict-affect western bank: all in Fashoda, Malakal (90%), Panyikang (89%) and to a lesser extent Manyo (71%).** This high level of reported shelter destruction and low levels of rebuilding limits access to adequate shelter

options at a time when they are clearly needed; during the rainy season.

While the proportion of western bank assessed settlements that reported shelter destruction was similar to May, a sharp increase was registered in some south eastern counties such as Maiwut (29% in May, 67% in June). The same upward trend was reported in neighboring Longochuk County, where the proportion of assessed settlements reporting shelter destruction rose to 88% in June, as opposed to 62% in May. This increase is in line with the number of assessed settlements in these counties reporting an increase in protection concerns and is likely reflective of security trends.

Most assessed settlements reported tukuls as one of the two main shelter type used by the local community (90%), with the notable exception of Manyo where 83% of assessed settlements reported improvised shelters were one of the two main shelter types. This high proportion may be associated with the high levels of shelter destruction in Manyo in June, as 71% of assessed settlements reported the destruction or partial destructions of shelters.

Supporting counties impacted by shelter destruction, those along the western bank in particular, with the provision of shelter assistance may be required in order to help prevent further displacement due to lacking shelter options as the rainy season continues.

### Health and WASH

The low levels of access to health care and WASH facilities reported in May remained

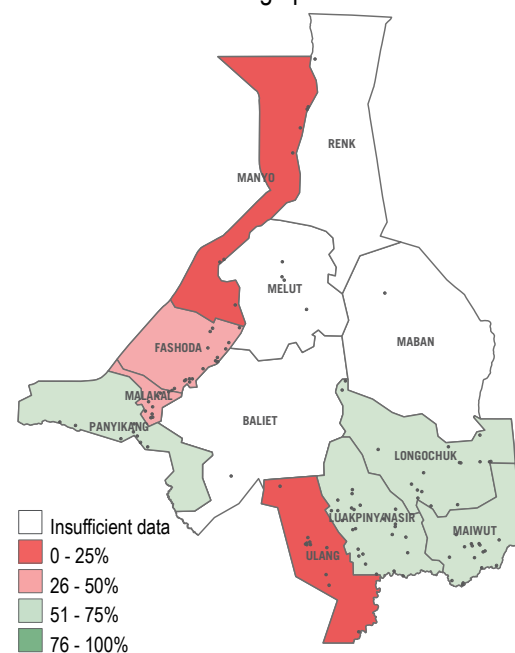
30. OCHA. South Sudan Flash Update on Upper Nile. 7 July 2017.

31. For more information see REACH: SSD. Upper Nile Situation Overview, May, 2017.



present during June.<sup>31</sup> **Half of all assessed settlements in Upper Nile reported no access to health facilities whatsoever in June.** As in May, insufficient infrastructure remained the most common reason for lacking healthcare facilities, as reported by 55% of assessed settlements. Insecurity and fighting also impacted access, in particular in Manyo where 83% of assessed settlements reported that healthcare facilities were not available and all cited the first reason was that violence destroyed facilities. As the cholera outbreak continued into 2017 and the rainy season increased the threat of malaria, a lack of sufficient healthcare facilities continued to drive displacement.

Demonstrative of the high prevalence of malaria



**Map 6: Proportion of settlements reporting access to healthcare facilities, June 2017**

and the negative health effects, malaria was the most commonly attributed cause of death in Upper Nile (45% of assessed settlements) and 93% of assessed settlements reported that malaria treatment was the most needed item. This is of most concern in settlements Fashoda (84%) and Malakal (83%), potentially because they lie along the River Nile. However, reporting malaria as the main health concern in assessed settlements in Luakpiny/Nasir (84%) and Maiwut (82%), where the rainy season may have resulted in water levels rising in the intermittent water bodies found in these counties. The presence of malaria as a main health concern was despite 65% of assessed settlements in these counties reporting more than half of the population used malaria nets. Therefore, the distribution of preventative items, treatment and malaria drugs should be prioritised for these areas along with malaria nets for the 35% of assessed settlements with low usage.

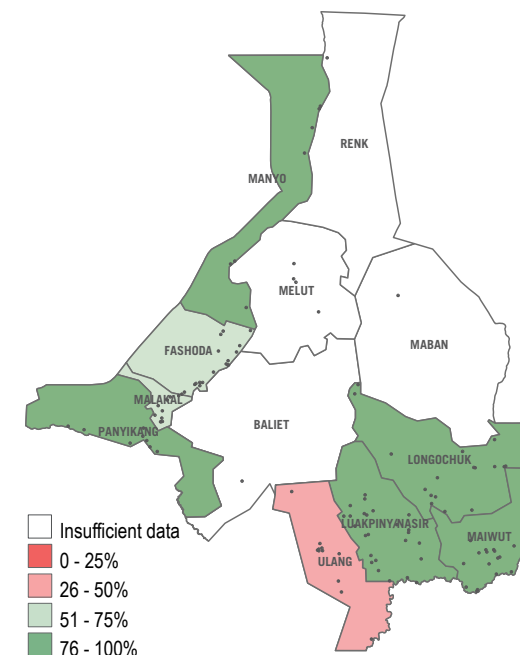
**Malnutrition, potentially the result inadequate access to food, was reported as a health problem in 53% of assessed settlement. Similar to May, malnutrition was also the leading attributed cause of death in assessed settlements (54%).** As 90% of assessed settlements in Upper Nile State reported being unaware of the existence of supplementary feeding programmes in their area, more could be done to improve inadequate access to food. Focus could be applied to Maiwut, as 81% of assessed settlements reported malnutrition as a health concern. This high rate is a sign that the reported inadequate access to food in Maiwut in May had a detrimental impact on assessed

Borehole	81%	
Protected well	7%	
Chlorine tabs	3%	
Water Yard	3%	

**Figure 7: Top four main reported sources of drinking water, June 2017**

settlements. The high proportion of assessed settlements that reported malnutrition as a health problem in Fashoda (84%) and Malakal (74%) may be indicative of the increased IDP presence placing greater stress of food supplies. As the lean season peaks in July, malnutrition rates should be closely watched in Upper Nile, in particular in Maiwut, Fashoda and Malakal, to ensure that if they do worsen additional action can be taken.

The protracted and widespread cholera outbreak continued to impact Upper Nile State in June. Aburoc and Renk remained active transmission sites and cholera vaccines were provided in Malakal town and Aburoc.<sup>32 33</sup> Despite the ongoing cholera outbreaks, latrine use has decreased in a proportion of assessed settlements in Upper Nile State. The proportion of assessed settlement that reported no one in their settlements used latrines was 55% (41% in May), rather people defecated in the bush or field. **Open defecation was reported by 89% of assessed settlements in Panyikang, 75% in Fashoda and 79% in Malakal. This is particularly problematic due to high susceptibility to cholera outbreaks because of their location along the Nile River, a key point of active cholera transmission.** Similar to May, 83% of assessed settlements reported



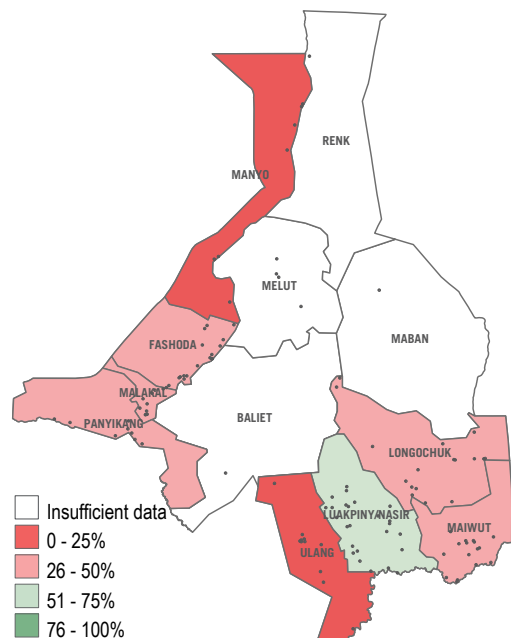
**Map 5: Proportion of settlements reporting access to safe drinking water, June 2017**

they were able to access safe drinking water. However, in the active cholera transmission county Fashoda only 59% of assessed settlements reported the same, suggesting that Fashoda not only needs medical and sanitation support, but also the improved provision of safe drinking water. The increase in open defecation in a proportion of assessed settlements in active cholera transmission counties suggests that access to appropriate WASH facilities decreased and indicate more might be done to target high risk areas, in particular in Fashoda.

**Signaling that insecurity continued to affect the western bank, wounds sustained during fighting remained a key health concern in**

32. UNICEF South Sudan Cholera Situation Report – 26 June 2017.

33. Republic of South Sudan Cholera Response Updates as of 17 July 2017.



**Map 7: Proportion of settlements reporting access to education facilities, June 2017**

**June.** Across Upper Nile, 33% of assessed settlements reported that wounds were a health concern, similar to May. In Manyo, 76% of assessed settlements reported wounds as a health concern, as did 70% in Fashoda and 51% in Panyikang. The reporting of wounds as insecurity continues in Upper Nile State highlights the importance of equipping healthcare facilities to not only deal with malaria and cholera, but also the outcomes of fighting.

### Education

While education levels have improved in a proportion of assessed settlements in the western bank in June, overall it remained very

low. The state levels remained unchanged from May with 38% of assessed settlement reporting access to education, yet a closer look at county level data shows a reversal of trends from the previous month with stable or increasing access in the western bank counties and decreasing access in the southeastern counties. All assessed counties of the conflict-affected western bank reported an improvement in access to education from what was reported in May. After reporting no access to education in May, the proportion of assessed settlements increased in Panyikang (44%) and Manyo (17%). In the south eastern corner, however, the proportion of assessed settlements in Maiwut County reporting access to education went from 86% in May to 46% in June, and Ulang from 57% in May to 17% in June. In both cases a majority of assessed settlements reported the lack of education facilities as the main barrier to enrollment, cited by 45% of settlements assessed in Upper Nile. The second most common reason was that fighting destroyed education facilities (31%), including in Maiwut (40%), which further explains the decrease in reported access. School fees remained the most frequently cited barrier to school enrollment in 76% of assessed settlements.

## Conclusion

### Displacement overview

**A hopeful anticipated lull in the conflict dynamic brought on by the rainy season appears to have been short-lived.** Fighting in Manyo caused additional displacement along

the western bank, and at the time of writing in July, numerous military activities have taken place along the eastern and western counties of Upper Nile State. In the south eastern corner, the period of relative stability seen over the past few months seems to have come to an end to an end with skirmishes in June and fighting in July causing further displacement within the state the state and over the border into Ethiopia.<sup>34</sup>

### Priority needs and targeting of response

In addition to insecurity, the lack of access to food and health care facilities drove people from their assessed settlements. Food insecurity reported in earlier Situation Overviews remained prevalent in Upper Nile State, and remained a health concern. Malnutrition was reported as the main health concern in 53% of assessed settlement, and similar to May where malnutrition was reported as the leading attributed cause of death in 54% of assessed settlements. More could be done to support communities facing significant food shortages, as the lean season will peak in July. Given the low access to services and deteriorating food security conditions in Ulang, Fashoda, Manyo and Renk, and high reported rates of malnutrition in Maiwut, when possible targeted food assistance should be provided to these counties to limit a further deterioration in adequate access to food.

The progression of the rainy season led to 45% of assessed settlements citing malaria as the primary attributed cause of death. The management of malaria was also complicated by the lack of appropriate medicine reported

by 89% of assessed settlements. Attention could be paid to Luakpiny/Nasir, Fashoda, Malakal and Maiwut, where the reported rate of malaria in assessed settlements was especially prevalent.

The protracted and widespread cholera outbreak was clearly reflected in the assessed health and WASH indicators. While access to safe drinking water remained relatively stable in June in Upper Nile State, **more than half of the assessed settlements reported no one in their settlements used latrines (54%).** To prevent cholera spreading, increased WASH and health support would be required in Fashoda and Malakal, as well as WASH support in Panyikang due to the prevalence of open defecation.

### About REACH

REACH facilitates the development of information tools and products that enhance the capacity of aid actors to make evidence-based decisions in emergency, recovery and development contexts. All REACH activities are conducted through inter-agency aid coordination mechanisms. For more information, you can write to our in-country office: [southsudan@reach-initiative.org](mailto:southsudan@reach-initiative.org) or to our global office: [geneva@reach-initiative.org](mailto:geneva@reach-initiative.org).

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